

Discussion: The ranges of *megas* and *casius* in Nicaragua have yet to be determined.

Key to Subspecies of *Turdus grayi*

1. Dorsally pale and grey to greyish olive or greyish brown	2
1. Dorsally notably dark and brown	5
2. Culmen short (less than 19 mm)	<i>microrhynchus</i>
2. Culmen larger	3
3. Dorsally greyish brown	<i>casius</i>
3. Dorsally greyish olive	4
4. Flanks and undertail coverts paler	<i>linnaei</i>
4. Flanks and undertail coverts darker	<i>megas</i>
5. Belly ochraceous, breast flanks and undertail coverts deep ochraceous	<i>grayi</i>
5. Belly paler buffy ochraceous, breast, flanks and undertail coverts paler	<i>lanyoni</i>

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- Address:** Dr. R. W. Dickerman, Dept. of Microbiology, Cornell University Medical College, 1300 York Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10021, U.S.A.

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A newly described species of *Melignomon* (Indicatoridae) from Liberia, West Africa

by P. R. Colston

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This is the second publication (see Forbes-Watson 1970) on the ornithological results of the survey initiated by the IUCN Nimba Research Committee on the ecology of the Nimba area in Liberia, West Africa.

Eleven specimens of a new honeyguide* were collected by A. D. Forbes-Watson and other members of the Nimba Research Laboratory between 1965 and 1974. They form part of a large collection of skins presented to the B.M.N.H. by the IUCN which are the subject of a major report (Colston, in press). Their measurements are given in Table 1.

TABLE 1
Measurements of *M. eisenrauti* and *M. zenkeri* (mm and gm).

<i>M. eisenrauti</i> (6 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀)				<i>M. zenkeri</i> (2 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀)			
wing	♂♂	79-86	(mean 83.2)	wing	♂♂	79-81	(mean 80)
tail	♂♂	47-52	(49.8)	tail	♂♂	45-50	(49)
bill	♂♂	12-13	(12.8)	bill	♂♂	12	(12)
tarsus	♂♂	15-17	(16)	tarsus	♂♂	15-16	(15.5)
weight	♂♂	21-29	(25.5)				
wing	♀♀	78-82	(mean 80.6)	wing	♀♀	72-75	(mean 73.3)
tail	♀♀	46-50	(47.4)	tail	♀♀	45-46	(45.7)
bill	♀♀	12-13	(12.4)	bill	♀♀	12	(12)
tarsus	♀♀	15-17	(15.8)	tarsus	♀♀	14-16	(15)
weight	♀♀	18-24.9	(22.4)				

Description. Similar to *M. zenkeri* but larger (see Table 1) and with brighter more olive-yellow upperparts, much paler, greyer underparts, and considerably more white on the outer tail feathers, which are also broader and less graduated in length. The head is olive-green, merging into a brighter olive-yellow on the back and rump (dusky olivaceous, merging into olive-brown on the back in *zenkeri*); the wings are washed with brighter yellowish-green (olive-brown with duller green edgings in *zenkeri*); and the underparts are pale grey with a faint green wash across the upper breast, becoming whiter towards the lower belly and undertail coverts (olive brown and paler on the belly in *zenkeri*). The primaries and 2 central pairs of tail feathers are black (brownish in *zenkeri*), and the underwing coverts are pale greyish-white (olivaceous-yellow in *zenkeri*). The bill is small and pointed as in *zenkeri*, but is distinctly paler, yellowish-brown (blackish in *zenkeri*). The legs are pale yellow (dull greenish-yellow in *zenkeri*). *M. eisenrauti* is a much brighter bird above but greyer below than *zenkeri*.

Annual Cycle (from collectors' labels and skins). None of the birds was considered to be in breeding condition. Sep and Nov ♂♂ were slightly worn and June and Aug ♂♂ were in fresh plumage. An Oct ♀ was in worn condition and the remaining ♀♀ were mostly in fresh plumage.

Food. Recorded as insects, yellow wax (or pollen?), small fruits and some seeds.

Differences between young M. eisenrauti and M. zenkeri. In addition to the 11 specimens from Mt. Nimba, there is a single specimen in the B.M.N.H. collection from Cameroun. It was collected by Dr. W. Serle in secondary forest at Bakebe and previously thought by Serle to be an immature specimen of *M. zenkeri* (Serle 1959: 65). The bird is a ♂ in fresh plumage and does not

*A copy of this paper, proposing a new name, was sent to Dr. M. Louette in October 1980, shortly after it had been submitted for publication. Dr. Louette has since seen fit to describe the new honeyguide without informing us of his intention (Louette 1981, a new species of honeyguide from West Africa, *Rev. Zool. Afr.* 95: 131-135—*Melignomon eisenrauti*). His paper came to hand while this one was in proof and it has been possible to do little more than delete the proposed name and substitute *eisenrauti* for it in the text and table.

appear to differ significantly from Nimba adult specimens of *eisentrauti*. Its gonads were recorded as small. The skull was partially pneumatized and it was probably a bird of the year. Its legs were noted as orange-yellow. The bill was also orange-yellow with some brownish areas. The wing measures 76 mm, tail 45 mm and bill 12 mm.

Six B.M.N.H. specimens of *zenkeri* include a juv ♂ recently fledged, collected by G. L. Bates on 22 March 1906 at Bitye on the River Ja in the Camerouns (B.M.N.H. No. 1911.5.31.137). Its bill was only partially formed and the tail half grown. The plumage is dark greenish above and considerably duskier greyish-green below. Serle remarks that he examined the short series of adult *zenkeri* obtained by Bates now in the B.M.N.H. However, he failed to note the significance of the juvenile in that collection. Had he done so he would have realised that his own much brighter yellow-green (? imm) specimen from Cameroun did not fit the plumage sequence of *zenkeri*. The tail pattern of the juv *zenkeri* is identical to that of the adult and quite different from that of *eisentrauti*. Dr. Serle himself remarked on this difference: "The amount of white on the four outer pairs of rectrices is much greater. The outermost pair are white tipped light brown, the brown tip extending 15 mm along the outer web and 4 mm along the inner web; the next pair are white narrowly edged with brown to 12 mm from the tip along the outer web only; the next pair are entirely white".

Remarks. The genus *Melignomon* was long thought to consist of a single species, *M. zenkeri*. With the discovery of *eisentrauti*, a species apparently endemic to the Upper Guinea forest, and as far as is known, *allopatric* with *zenkeri* (see Snow (1978), map 374), it seems probable that the genus consists of 2 species in a single super-species. *M. zenkeri* is found from the southern Camerouns to the northern part of the Congo forest east to Semliki. It seems likely *eisentrauti* will be found in other areas of the Upper Guinea forest.

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Address: P. R. Colston, Sub-department of Ornithology, British Museum (Natural History), Tring, Hertfordshire, England.

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A House x Somali Sparrow *Passer domesticus* x *P. castanopterus* hybrid

by J. S. Ash & P. R. Colston

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A bird resembling a ♂ House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* was found by J.S.A. consorting with a small colony of Somali Sparrows *P. castanopterus* on 6 March 1980 in a sea-cave at Hal Hambo (01°54'N, 45°05'E), 31 km south-west of Mogadishu, Somalia. As there were problems concerning its identification it was collected the following day, and identified at the British